

# THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. VI.

NUMBER 22

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION—Hotel des Etrangers.  
HON. HENRY W. HILLIARD,  
Minister.  
BRITISH LEGATION—Nº 290 Rue do Catete  
FREDERICK R. ST. JOHN,  
Chargé d'affaires.  
AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL—Nº 30 Rue do  
Visconde de Inhauma.  
THOMAS ADAMSON,  
Consul General.  
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL—Nº 1 Rue da  
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GEORGE THORNE RICKETTS,  
Consul General.

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at 11 o'clock, a.m., and 2 o'clock, p.m., every Sunday.  
FREDERICK YOUNG, M.A.,  
Residence—43 Rue da Princesa Imperial, Catete.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—15 Travessa da Buarque,  
between 11 o'clock, a.m., and 2 o'clock  
p.m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock p.m., every  
Thursday.  
JAMES T. HOUSTON,  
Pastor.  
METHODIST CHURCH—Nº 175, Rue do Catete. Services  
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J. J. RANSOM,  
Pastor.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1879

## ILLEGAL SLAVERY.

One of the last acts of injustice and inhumanity which we would naturally expect from an enlightened and just people would be an illegal retention of freedmen in slavery by Englishmen. From the nation which gave us Wilberforce and Clarkson, the founders of the modern anti-slavery movement, the nation which freed her own slaves at an expense of £20,000,000, the nation which has spread anti-slavery doctrines throughout the world, maintained fleets upon the sea for the suppression of the slave traffic and literally forced other nations into an international alliance for that most humane and noble purpose, from such a nation we would expect to find no person nor corporation capable of committing an act of aggression upon the liberty of a single human being. On the contrary, we would look to her for a most jealous watchfulness over the integrity and enforcement of these great principles of human freedom everywhere, especially in all instances where her own subjects are concerned.

It is with surprise, therefore, that we find a case where an English company, organized and working under English laws with its head office in the great English capital itself, deliberately and designedly conspiring to retain a certain number of emancipated negroes in slavery, and availing itself of the profits of the transaction. Yet such is unquestionably the case. The S. João d'El-Rei mining company has at this day fifty thousand blacks in slavery who were made free and emancipated in the year 1859 by a contract made in 1845 to which this same company was a party. Between the years 1847 and 1864, the British government was engaged in a heated discussion with the government of Brazil over the treatment of some thousands of *emancipados* who were unjustly held in slavery by the latter government. Every effort was made even to reprisals on the high seas and the suspension of diplomatic relations, to force Brazil into an honorable settlement of the shameful injustice. And yet, we find here an instance of equal injustice and bad faith, where Englishmen themselves are the offenders, and where a most infamous transaction has been quietly ignored for twenty years. Even during all the years when Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell were pressing this government for a list of *emancipados* and demanding that they should receive their liberty and indemnification for damages under the decision of a court of claims, even at the time when British war vessels were making reprisals outside this harbor and the life of the British minister in this city was threatened because of such an aggressive proceeding, the superintendent of an English mining company in Minas Geraes was knowingly and criminally depriving emancipated slaves of their freedom, and the contract to that effect, the proof of the criminality of this proceeding, was in the possession of a highly respectable and influential firm of solicitors in the city of London.

The proofs of this charge are clear and conclusive. It is no longer a vague report, such as has been repeated for years throughout the province of Minas Geraes; nor does it rest upon hearsay evidence. The proofs upon which the charge is now made is the contract itself, upon various official and authenticated documents, which clearly prove the conspiracy and commission of the crime of illegally reducing a large number of emancipated blacks to slavery. The documents and proofs are as follows:

On the 27th of June, 1845, certain directors of the English company named The Brazilian Company, working at Cata Branca, and the S. João d'El-Rei Mining Company, of Morro Velho, Minas Geraes, met in the city of London and signed articles of agreement for the hiring of 385 slaves, belonging to the Cata Branca company, to the S. João d'El-Rei company, and the sale and transfer of their mining estates and plant. An agreement had been

made on the 5th of May previous which, it was stipulated, should become null on the fulfillment of the conditions of the new agreement. The contract made in 1845, a copy of which bearing the attestation of John Wreford Budd, of the firm of Johnsons, Upton, Budd & Alkey, solicitors, London, and dated November 29, 1876, is as follows:

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT made and entered into the twenty-seventh day of June, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five, by George Hatherly, Robert Collesworth, Robert Higgins, Alfred Tucker, Follott, Francis Ignatius Van Zeller, all of the City of London, esquires, being the directors of the Brazilian company, on behalf of themselves and all other the proprietors or shareholders of the said company, of the first part; and John Dixon Powles, of Austin Friars in the City of London, and John Routh, of Austin Friars in the same city, esquire, Robert Addison, of Great Russell street, esquire, Sturt Donaldson, of Broad street in the same city, esquire, and Edward Hurry, of Oxford Terrace, esquire, being the directors of the S. João d'El-Rei Mining Company, on behalf of themselves and all other the proprietors or shareholders of the said last named company, of the second part:

WHEREAS the said Brazilian company are, or on the 21st day of December last were, seized, or possessed of, or entitled to or to the labor and services of the negroes hereinafter more particularly enumerated and mentioned in the first schedule hereunder written, and they have agreed with the said parties hereto of the second part to let to them and on behalf of the said S. João d'El-Rei Mining Company the said negroes and their labor and services for the period and on the terms and conditions hereinafter expressed and declared; and also to enter into such stipulations and agreements relative to the said negroes and their present and future issue as are herein also contained.

And the said parties hereto of the first part have also agreed to sell to the said parties hereto of the second part the mills, machinery, and effects hereinbefore mentioned.

Now THEREFORE THESE PRESENTS WITNESS, that in pursuance and part performance of the said agreement in this behalf, the parties hereto of the first part do hereby for themselves jointly, and every two of them as is hereinbefore mentioned, and the said parties hereto of the second part to let to them and on behalf of the said S. João d'El-Rei Mining Company the said negroes and their labor and services for the period and on the terms and conditions hereinafter expressed and declared; and also to enter into such stipulations and agreements relative to the said negroes and their present and future issue as are herein also contained.

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## THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONIALLY  
on the eve of departure of the American packet,  
the French packet of the 15th, and Royal  
Mail packet of the 24th of the month,

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, a table of freights and charges, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

### TERMS:

(Cash invariably in advance)

Subscriptions for the year in Brazil, \$100.00  
do for six months do 50.00  
do for one year in the United States, \$100.00  
do for six months do 50.00  
do for one year in Great Britain, £10.00  
do for six months do 5.00

Subscriptions now received to the 1st of January, 1859.

All subscribers must run with the calendar year.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1879

IN THE MATTER of Wilson vs. Church the High Court of Justice granted an extension of time to September 2 in order to enable the appellants to prepare their case for the House of Lords. The original date, August 1, was found to give insufficient time for printing all the documents, hence the further extension. Just how long it will take their lordships to digest all these documents is problematical. In their zeal to "sift" the matter thoroughly, it is not at all unlikely that their lordships will visit the grounds in *propria persona*.

THE CHART showing the course of exchange on this market since 1851, which we give in our commercial department, will give our readers a fuller and more comprehensive idea of its fluctuations than can be obtained in any other way. This method of indicating the general course of exchange has long been used in England and the United States and has been found to be of great service in giving a quick and comprehensive idea of the subject. As to the sharp angles and great irregularities of the "exchange line," our readers will draw their own conclusions. In a state of financial health and industrial prosperity, uninfluenced by war, pestilence or feverish speculation, this "exchange line" should have only gentle curves, rising above and falling below the "par line" like peaceful waves above and below the level of the sea. The great problem for the Brazilian statesman is to reduce these angles to curves, and to hold the line more uniformly to the line of "27 pence."

AFTER A MINUTE examination of the port of Maranhão, which occupied a large part of two or three days, the Barão de Teixeira and his fellow commissioners have decided that Maranhão has a suitable port for the American steamers, better even than that of Pernambuco. The world is indebted to the titled engineer for this surprising discovery, even though it is slightly discredited by the experience of many shipmasters and merchants. The Barão, however, is wholly independent of these annoying factors; he instituted a search for deep water and found it what more can Maranhão ask? If there are dangerous rocks, as was the case at Santos, and shoals, that is a matter entirely independent of his purpose. The steamers can do as they please about running upon them. Even the contingency of the entire withdrawal of the American steamers from the northern ports, which we heartily advise them to do in case of a compulsory service at Maranhão, has no terror for this illustrious engineer; his line of duty took him into deep water and there he has anchored his case. What, now, does the government propose to do?

THE FOLLOWING figures taken from a recent report of the inspector-general of public works shows the gradual diminution in the water supply of this city since the month of March last. In March the average daily supply was 7,273,548.5 gallons in May, 5,829,330.3 gallons; in July, 4,383,312.4 gallons; on August 1st, 3,181,665 gallons; on August 22nd, 2,631,822 gallons. Assuming the population of the city to be three hundred thousand, the water supply of the 22nd ult. gave an average quantity of 8.77 gallons to each person for all purposes, a quantity totally insufficient to meet the necessities of a crowded population and to preserve the essential

sanitary condition of a large city. It is true that there are some other sources of water supply of a private character not included in the inspector-general's returns, but this supply would after the result only in a slight degree. If it were possible to estimate the number of animals, steam engines, street sprinklers, etc., etc., dependent upon this same supply and then deduct the quantity used by them from the daily distribution, the quantity remaining for drinking, cooking and bathing purposes would be most alarmingly small. It will be observed that we have assumed the population to be three hundred thousand individuals. Were we to take the more commonly accepted figures, varying from three hundred and fifty thousand, the result would be far more alarming than that which we have deduced from the minimum estimate of population. The matter is one which demands prompt and thoughtful attention on the part of the public officials, and they should see to it at once that there shall be no further waste nor unnecessary use of water in the city.

DEPUTY Ignacio Martins of the *comarca* in which the Morro Velho mines are located, in his address on the question of the illegal retention in slavery of the Catta Branca blacks, said, "these slaves, I assure the noble deputies, are in a municipality in which they can have full confidence that full and complete justice will be done." In the same discussion Deputy Galdino das Neves, of the same province, said that the fact of this illegal slavery was public, that he had known it many years, and that everybody in Minas knew it. Deputy Martins further stated that Antonio Carlos Rebello Horta gave information to the municipal judge of Salar (in 1872) that these slaves were free since 1859 and that the judge Dr. Chassim Drummond began proceedings and appointed a guardian for the negroes. And further, soon after this the master was again brought before the public by a correspondent of the *Jornal do Comércio*. In view of these facts we would ask the Deputy from Minas if his assurance is not just a little ill-timed. If this great injustice has been known "many years," and if proceedings were begun in 1872 for the freedom of men illegally enslaved without securing that freedom up to the present day, is it not time to appeal to some other powers than the judicial authorities of Salar? If these authorities can accomplish nothing in seven years, and are content to see these blacks left in the mines by their guardian under all their former conditions and obligations of servitude, is there not something of bombast in the assurance that we can have "full confidence" in them? The simple truth is that these authorities reside a little too near the richest gold mine in Brazil. We trust that the Chamber will not stand on ceremony, but will probe the whole matter to the bottom.

ACCORDING to the official report of the treasury officials upon the new 4 1/2 per cent loan of \$50,000,000, published on the 3rd instant, the total amount subscribed was 123,604,000\$. Of this amount, 121,655,000\$ were taken in this city, the remaining 1,949,000\$ being distributed throughout the various provinces of the empire. The rates at which the subscription were made varies from 96 to 100: only 11,000\$ being taken at the latter rate; 15,000\$ at 99; 429,500\$ at 98; 177,500\$ at 97 1/2; 16,848,000\$ at 97; 2,427,500\$ at various fractions between 96 and 97; and 103,695,500\$ at the minimum rate of 96. Of the latter sum only 709,000\$ was subscribed in sums less than 5,000\$, which have the preference under the stipulations of the loan. It will be seen, therefore, that the loan has been largely taken by banks and capitalists. The subscriptions at rates above 96 amount to 19,908,500\$, leaving 30,016,800\$ to be emitted at the minimum price. The average rate at which the loan is emitted is 96.37, making an actual emission of nearly fifty-one thousand nine hundred contos necessary to realize the amount asked. Taking all these factors into consideration, it is evident that the treasury has made a signal failure in its attempt to make the loan a popular one and to realize better prices by the operation. Less than two-fifths of it have been taken at advanced prices and in sums which indicate popular subscriptions; and out of all this waiting, and expense, and strain upon the national credit, the minister of finance has succeeded in saving a paltry two hundred

contos, a sum barely sufficient to pay expenses and keep open the branch establishments for the transaction of business connected with the receipts of instalments on the subscriptions and the payment of interest. Had the minister of finance accepted the guarantee of the banks to place the loan at 96, the net results would have been equal to those now realized, and the moral effect would have been infinitely greater. As we have before stated, the placing of a 4 1/2 per cent loan at 96 would be considered a financial success in view of the present condition of things in Brazil. There was no need of an expensive demonstration that this

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

—The Senate has been very steadily at work since our last issue, being much the more industrious of the two houses. There has been the usual amount of private legislation, consequently the usual amount of time wasted. The discussion in second reading of the estimates for the department of empire closed on the 27th ult., and the Senate then entered upon the discussion in second reading of the estimates for the department of foreign affairs, which has since occupied much of the time. The amended bills relating to the naval estimates for 1880-81, and the supplementary credit for the new *abatôr*, were received from the Chamber on the 29th. On the 30th the supplementary credit for the department of empire on behalf of the *séca*, was the subject of a favorable committee report. The original sum asked on the 3rd of February last was 10,000,000\$, but in view of the increased expenditures at the time of its consideration, the Chamber increased the credit to 20,000,000\$. With the amounts expended previous to the communication of the minister of empire with the General Assembly and the credits since opened, the grand total of government expense in behalf of the *séca* up to the 27th ult. was \$14,144,446\$376.

—There has been some slight improvement in the attendance of deputies during the past ten days, though there is still manifested no slight disinclination for regular work. There has been a great variety of subjects before the Chamber, varying from the regular and supplementary credits asked for by various departments, to bills for the reorganization of municipal boards, concessions, aids to labor, cane disease, etc., etc. On the 27th concessions were introduced for Theodore Christensen, of Pernambuco, for the manufacture of thread from the fibrous epicarp of the fruit of the cocoa with exemption from duties on all materials necessary to the manufacture, and a ten years privilege to Guilherme Schuch de Caparéma for the manufacture of sulphurated carbon. On the 29th the question concerning the retiring Italian colonists in Santa Catharina was brought before the Chamber by Deputy Mello e Alvim who condemned the administration of the director, Carvalho Borges, in the strongest terms. An attempt was made to defend the director by Deputy Lourenço de Albuquerque, but with little effect; the proofs of his mal-administration were to strong. The extraordinary credits asked by the minister of foreign affairs received a favorable report on the 27th, and the naval estimates were passed on the 29th.

—The case of the illegal retention in slavery of about 200 blacks, formerly slaves of The Brazilian Company, of Catta Branca, now extinct, by the S. João do Rei Mining Company, was brought before the Chamber on the 26th inst. by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco. After narrating the history of the transaction by which these slaves came into the possession of the latter company at Morro Velho, and the subsequent evasion of its obligations under the contract in which absolute freedom was guaranteed these slaves in 1859, the speaker made an eloquent plea for the rights of the poor blacks who have now been kept in an illegal slavery for twenty years. To the pointed interrogatories of the speaker—"I ask if it is possible to inscribe in the book of matriculation more than 200 persons as slaves of an extinct company? if an extinct company can possess slaves and have them matriculated? if there can be slaves who have no owner? who is the owner of these slaves?"—no satisfactory reply was given in favor of the accused company. Deputy Ignacio Martins spoke to some length on the question, admitting that the blacks were entitled to their freedom, but contending that the courts, where proceedings were already commenced, were competent to deal with the matter. Deputy Joaquim Nabuco's request for information from the minister of justice was then read and passed, in which it was asked: who are the owners of these slaves? has the government knowledge of the contract of June 27, 1845? what means have been taken to guarantee liberty to these slaves and punish those who illegally reduced them to slavery after their emancipation?

—The bill appropriating 200,000\$ for the study of the disease affecting sugar cane in Pernambuco, and for the purchase of fresh seed, passed its first reading on the 29th and entered into discussion on its second reading.

This project, once so innocent and modest as to inveigle the energetic Pernambuco deputy, Joaquim Nabuco, into a hearty support of it, is now assuming proportions and features of an astonishing character. No sooner had the project entered on its second reading than a Rio de Janeiro deputy wanted the coffee-tree disease of his province included, then several Bahia deputies wanted "Bahia and other provinces" included, then the Parályba deputies wanted their province named, and then Deputy Malheiros of Matto Grosso capped the climax by proposing that the disease among the horses and mules of his province should be included. Nothing now remains but the amendment of the celebrated Mineiro, Galdino, which will call for a commission on the *bichos de fogo* which cause such dreadful ravages in his province. We are glad to see that Joaquim Nabuco has discovered the fat little job in the scheme and is making an effort to separate the study of the sugar cane disease, which is a commendable measure, from the seed bureau, which can safely be dispensed with.

—On the 26th ult. the minister of foreign affairs applied to the Chamber for an extraordinary credit of 120,000\$, at the par of exchange, to meet the expenses of the special mission to China. This credit is intended to defray the expenses of Dr. Eduardo Calado, at present in London and two or three vessels on a special mission to China for the purpose of entering into a commercial treaty with that country and negotiate for a convention between the two countries in relation to introducing Chinese labor into Brazil.

### PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The president of the province of Amazonas, in a telegram of the 25th ult., denies the reign of anarchy in the interior of that province, as charged by the *Crazeiro*, and states that the most complete tranquility exists throughout the province and on its frontiers.

—The receipts of the Manaus custom house during the month of July were 30,228\$160. The internal revenue receipts of the province of Amazonas during the same month were 52,688\$329.

—The provincial assembly of Pará closed its sessions on the 16th ult.

—Later reports from Rio Grande do Sul state that great damage was done all along the coast by the storm of the 9th ult. Many vessels were lost, and others are constantly reporting injuries. The damage at Mostardas is reported at \$30,000.

—Severe cold weather is reported from Paraná during the early part of last month. Snow fell for a time, and ice was formed two inches in thickness. The *Província* complains that the cold is so intense at the date of publication as to interfere with the printing.

—The Dutch schooner *Maria Beerta* was wrecked on the S. João do Rei coast on the 11th ult. She was driven ashore during the storm and all lives were lost but one.

—The Royal Mail packet *Tugus*, on her recent voyage to this port, was delayed one day at Pernambuco by bad weather, which prevented her discharging cargo.

—On the 11th ult. the minister of agriculture advised the minister of justice that the action of the president of the commercial board in admitting to registry an effigy of Santa Rita as a trade mark, was great insult as no scandal results from such use of the images of saints.

—The necessary orders from the bureau of agriculture have been received by the inspector general of colonization for the employment of the destitute Russians in this city on the public water works. In the meantime the chief of police has been informed that the quarters provided for immigrants in this city will not be opened to the Russians because of their having abandoned the lands and favors bestowed on them by the government. The women and children are begging in the streets.

—The miserable and inarticulate character of the engraving of the bank notes of the old issues of the Brazilian treasury and the Bank of Brazil, many of which are still in circulation, is positively an invitation to the adventurous and not too scrupulous to enter into the business of counterfeiting. Just before the *City of Rio de Janeiro* left New York, Sr. João Benicio Bebelique, an enterprising Brazilian, was arrested by a special detective as one of a party who had been engaged in preparing a batch of counterfeits of the old notes for circulation in Brazil, and just as the steamer sailed from the dock, another Brazilian, an accomplice of his, was taken into custody, after having delivered two letters to the power for Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro. These letters were delivered to the American consuls at these ports where doubtless this government will take the proper means to possess themselves of them, after the result of the hearing of the counterfeiter in New York is communicated through the usual channels. The young man who was arrested on the dock had taken his passage by the *City of Rio* for Pernambuco, and it is said that a brother-in-law was quite disappointed at not finding him on board. Mr. A. G. Goodale, the president of the American Bank Note Company was chiefly instrumental in detecting the fraud and in having the warrants issued on which the arrests were made.

## THE RIO NEWS

The Pacific Mail packet, *Britannia*, left Lisbon for this port on the 29th ult.

The steamer *Glenlogan* was libeled in the U. S. district court at Baltimore, July 23, to recover a balance of \$206.56 due out of an indebtedness for supplies contracted in New York.

The steamers *Ontario* and *Merrimac*, of the old Garrison line between this port and New York, have been purchased by Nehemiah Gibson, Esq., of Boston. It is not announced what service they will enter upon. The first was built in 1867, the other in 1862.

The bark *J. H. Ingolter* clearing at New York for this port July 26, manifested 375,569 feet of lumber, 11 barrels newspaper, 50 cases perfume, 99 pigs domestic, 16 cases sewing machines, and 180 barrels.

It is proposed to hold the projected exposition of Canadian products and manufactures in the rooms of the Typographia Nacional, from July 10 to October next year. The usual steps are now being taken to verify actual requirements, buyers being unwilling to commit themselves to purchases in the present state of uncertainty.

The new water works have now reached a point about sixteen kilometers from the city. The authorities announce their intention to provide the shipping with water from the mains which pass near the port of Fava, to which the steam launches can easily go for this purpose.

—On the 28th ult. the managers of the Portuguese exposition received members of the press of this city and gave them an opportunity to test the quality of eighty-one varieties of wine. The opportunity was not neglected and everybody came away highly delighted.

A meeting of The Brazilian Navigation Company took place on the 30th ult. for the transaction of the regular business of that company. The directors of the past year were re-elected, and Mr. Megaw, of Norton, Megaw & Co., was chosen to fill a vacancy. The company decided, among other things, to effect its interests in England, owing to the trickiness of the Brazilian companies.

The American packet *City of Rio Janeiro*, arriving at this port on the 28th ult., reports a pleasant and successful voyage. Since her last voyage to this port this steamer has been thoroughly overhauled and is now in excellent condition in every way. Several changes have been made in her officers; Capt. James F. Lewis succeeds Capt. William Wier in command, and Mr. Henry Holton succeeds Mr. O'Brien in the commissary department. The *City* brings out this time the largest cargo yet brought away from New York to this port, there being 7,000 barrels of flour and upwards of 9,000 miscellaneous packages. Our thanks are due to the purser, Dr. W. N. Kinney, for information and favors.

—Among the passengers of the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, arriving here on the 28th ult., was Mr. Francis Curran, who comes here for the purpose of establishing a Sailor's Mission at this port. The need of some effort of this kind has long been felt here, but the time of the English chaplain and American missionaries has been so absorbed in other work that nothing permanent has ever been accomplished. Mr. Curran has had a wide experience in this kind of work, having been engaged in it in several cities of the United States and was four years in British Honduras as a sailor of the British Missionary Society. He will enter actively upon his work here as soon as suitable quarters can be obtained.

Flour. There have again been heavy arrivals and prices are \$1 per lb. lower. The total arrivals for the month since the 4th ult. amount to 43,534 lbs. American 11,262 bags River Plate 14,354 lbs. American 11,262 bags River Plate 15,358 lbs. flour and bags. Our stock is estimated today at 12,000 bags. *Portuguese*.—The arrivals consist of 452,031 feet per *John E. Chase* from Brunswick which had been sent to arrive some time ago.

*Waste Paper*.—The arrivals have been 64,466 feet per *Admiral*, from New York, sold at \$20 per foot; 4,000 feet per *Water Witch*, from Baltimore not yet sold.

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The stock since the same date amount to 22,620 bags, viz:

300 lbs. Trieste 3,000 lbs. American

3,000 lbs. River Plate

15,358 lbs. flour and bags.

The stock since the same date have been

Stock in first hands consists of

We quote:

1,000 barrels Trieste 4,000 lbs. Gallego

4,200 lbs. Hassall. 2,000 lbs. Damp.

2,000 lbs. Western. 11,000 lbs. Western

15,358 lbs. flour River Plate

Total 30,632 barrels and bags.

We quote:

Trieste 3,000 lbs. Ecco

Richmond 1,000 lbs.

Baltimore 11,262 bags 10,000

Western 19,000 10,000

River Plate 15,358 10,000

Total 56,982 barrels and bags.

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That he entertained doubts as to the legality of his claim to represent the Cata Branca company is shown by the fact that on the 6th of August following three persons, calling themselves "directors of The Brazilian Company formerly established at Cata Branca," but whose names do not appear as directors in the last act of the expiring Cata Branca company in 1845, signed a document purporting to confirm all his past acts and to confer upon him all needful authority in the matter of registering these slaves.

This purported authorization is witnessed only by clerks of the S. João d'El-Rei company, No. 8 Tokenhouse Yard, London, E.C., mentions no meeting nor resolution of the board of directors of the Cata Branca company, appears to have no seal nor office address of that company, and bears none of the marks of an honest, legally-executed instrument.

In reply to a question upon the manumission of these slaves, the Visconde do Rio Branco wrote to the collector at Sabará, July 8, 1872, "Those individuals can not be considered slaves to whom is conceded liberty upon any condition or onus, and they, therefore, can not be manumitted under Art. VIII. of Law 2,040 of September 28, 1871." The Cata Branca blacks, however, had already been manumitted, and in spite of contract, law, opinion, and every sense of justice they are still slaves in the mines of Morro Velho. It matters not that their treatment under the present superintendent, Mr. Morrison, has been greatly improved, immeasurably improved in comparison with their condition under his predecessor. The simple fact that a most inhuman and despicable crime was committed by James Newell Gordon, with the probable knowledge, consent and assistance of the chairman of the board of directors in London, against the freedom of these blacks still remains and demands prompt reparation. It is a crime which we feel sure the English government will not overlook and will not be slow to punish.

In 1877, charges were brought against the S. João d'El-Rei company by Antonio Carlos Rebello Horta Jr., but nothing has grown out of it but petty, trivial questions which have little or no bearing on the main issue. A *curador* and *depositario* were appointed for the slaves, but no change was effected in the situation as the blacks were left in the hands of the company. At the present time the company is demanding that proceedings shall be discontinued and that the legal guardianship over the slaves shall be withdrawn.

#### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The difficulties between Morris N. Kohn and the management of the Dom Pedro II railway which were embodied in a petition to the Senate, were made the subject of a committee report on the 18th ultimo. The report recites the history of Mr. Kohn's proposition to the railway company for the establishment of an express service in this city, the promises made to him, the subsequent quarrels between him and the managers of the road in which Mr. Kohn's papers were torn up and he was denied admittance to the offices of the company, the requirement of certain adverse conditions from him, and the final contract between the railway managers and the "Carris Urbanos" company for the same service on the grounds that this latter company offered the greater advantages and security. Mr. Kohn has made his grievances the subject of a petition to the Senate, where certain political influences can be brought into action, and the report of the committee on the 18th gives an opinion decidedly in his favor. It is probable that the discussion of the report will bring out some interesting disclosures.

The supplementary credit of 210,074\$-677 asked by the minister of marine, to meet deficiencies in the appropriations for the fiscal year 1878-9, Act 2,792 October 20, 1877, was the subject of a favorable committee report in the Chamber on the 19th. The deficiency is largely owing, says the minister's report, to the increase in the cost of food, it having been found impossible to supply rations on the base of 400 réis as fixed by the law of 1877.

In the session of the 19th, Felicio dos Santos called the attention of the Chamber to the existing scarcity of water in this city and to the abuses practiced by the public officials. The occasion of the discussion was a request that a member *pro tem* of the committee on public health should be ap-

pointed, owing to the illness of one of the members of that committee. The petitioner then went on to call attention to the vexations and injustice growing out of the present administration. He stated that even in times of scarcity some houses were provided with water, while others in the same street and dependent upon the same source, were unable to get water for days and months. In theory the person possessing a penstock pays the treasury 3\$ per month for water rates, but in reality he is compelled to pay the guard a further sum of 5\$ for turning on the water. And then the people, who do not get water during the three, four or five months of drought are compelled to pay the regular rates for twelve months. The speaker in concluding stated, and his words should be printed upon the instructions of every official in this city, that the scarcity of water should be equally shared in by all the inhabitants of Rio de Janeiro, because, when the suffering is equitably distributed, it is felt much less acutely.

The hobby of the declining years of the Visconde de Porto Seguro in regard to a removal of the capital to the geographical centre of the empire has at last found another able advocate in the eminent Brazilian geographer, Senator Mendes de Almeida. In a speech on the estimates for the ministry of empire, on the 16th ult., he referred to the ravages of yellow fever in this city, and to the advantages, in a hygienic point of view, to be gained by the location of the capital in the interior. By this, he argued, we should escape many of the ills which now afflict us. In addition Brazil would then have a modern capital, without slavery; and the great movement to the interior, which would follow, would enable her to conquer the lands which she owns but does not occupy. The districts of the coast would gather a new impetus in their development and Brazilian commerce would at once assume an importance which it does not now possess. The speaker's personal preference in the matter of location was some point on the Araguaya river, on the western boundary of Goyaz. We are inclined to think the location a first-class one for the General Assembly, but wouldn't advise any one else to move out there.

#### SHIPPING CIRCULAR.

The official Supervising Surgeon-General S. U. Marine Hospital Service has recently issued the following:

#### 76 Medical Officers of the Marine Hospital Service, and others whom it may concern.

To insure to such owners of American vessels as desire the services of sound and healthy seamen, facilities for the proper physical examination of crews, at all ports where medical officers of the Marine Hospital Service are stationed, such officers will, upon the application of any U. S. Shipping Commissioner, or of the master or owner of any vessel engaged in the foreign trade, or passenger steamer engaged in coasting trade, examine physically any seaman or seamen, and give a certificate as to their fitness or otherwise.

2. A record will be kept of all examinations of seamen, and a transcript thereof forwarded quarterly to the Surgeon-General of the Marine Hospital Service.

3. In all cases of rejection, the certificate will state explicitly, in English, the reason for such rejection.

4. The loss of an arm or leg; defective vision; color blindness; epilepsy; mental unsoundness; hernia; piles; fistule; varicose veins; serious organic disease; habitual drunkenness; the existence of venereal disease; marked want of development; weakness of the body, or deformity; cause the rejection of any seaman desiring to ship.

5. No seaman will be examined for the purpose of giving such certificate except in the presence of a U. S. Shipping Commissioner, or the master, owner, or agent of the vessel on which the seaman is expected to be employed, and examinations will only be made at the Marine Hospital Office.

6. The rejection of a seaman at examination shall not debar him from subsequent examination in case he claims that the disease for which he was rejected has disappeared.

7. The provisions of this circular will also apply to enlisted persons in the Revenue Marine, Life-Saving, Coast Survey, and Light-House Services, and to persons desiring to enlist therein upon the application of the proper officers of the respective services.

8. No fee will be charged by any medical officer for making the examination or certificate herein contemplated.

J. B. HAMILTON,  
Surgeon-General U. S. Marine  
Hospital Service.

The provincial government of Pará has appropriated 5,000\$ for the treatment of the poor people in Cametá who are suffering with small pox.

#### PROVINCIAL NOTES

The subscriptions for the new gold loan in Maranhão amounted to 515,000\$.

The Barão de Teffé has completed his examination of the port of Maranhão and reports that the harbor will admit the entrance of the American steamers.

A conflict has broken out in Maranhão between the bishop and the masons.

The mercantile community of Maranhão have undertaken to assist the establishment of central factories by subscription, and 400,000\$ have been subscribed. This is better than going to the public treasury.

The people of Santos, like those of Rio de Janeiro, are suffering from a scarcity of water.

Reports from Conceição da Ponta Nova, in the interior, state that no rains have fallen in that locality since June 14, and great suffering is now felt because of the drought.

Up to the 13th ult., there were twenty-five vessels in the port of Rio Grande waiting for an opportunity to cross the bar. On the 14th the water was higher and thirteen vessels departed. On the 16th ult., there were only eight vessels in port ready to sail.

Rains are reported from the interior of Pernambuco.

A severe storm occurred at Rio Grande do Sul on the 9th and 10th ult., causing considerable damage to shipping along that coast. Several small vessels were lost and others injured. The "oldest inhabitant" says that such a storm has not been known for many years. On the 9th the American vessel *Green Banker* broke loose from her anchorage and after injuring a Brazilian vessel somewhat, ran aground where she remained for a time quite high and dry. The vessel was finally extricated from her perilous position. She was loaded with hitherto, tailer, keel, etc., for Rio de Janeiro.

The province of Ceará has expended on public instruction from 1855 to 1870, according to the report of the president, the total sum of 3,666,843\$, or about 445,870.

The president of the province of Rio Grande do Sul has selected the 27th of October next as the date for electing special electors to nominate a successor of the late Visconde do Rio Grande. The nomination will be made November 25th.

According to the report of the president of Ceará to the provincial assembly, recently opened, the total importation of food products into that province during the years 1876-7, 1877-8 and 1878-9 was as follows: Farinha 755,735 sacks; beans 138,100 sacks; corn 106,644 sacks; rice 188,064 sacks; jerked beef 207,242 halves codfish 35,972 halves; and wheat flour 76,648 barrels. Previous to the *acto* the importation of these articles was so small as not to be noticeable.

There are now about 14,000 destitute people employed on the "famine roads" of Ceará, whose work supports a population of about 50,000.

Our latest advice from Rio Grande do Sul state that the people of that city, Porto Alegre and Pelotas were making extensive preparations for the reception of ex-Minister Silveira Martins, who was expected shortly to make a visit to his native province. The Germans were also preparing to welcome him, because of his efforts in behalf of the fall enfranchisement of non-catholics.

The damages occasioned to public property in Rio Grande by the storm of the 9th ult., is estimated at 50,000\$. No estimate has been made upon the damage done to private property, which was very great.

According to a *Paraná* paper of the 24th ult., a large number of Italian colonists arrived at the port of Desterro from the Brusque colony, with their families, on the 21st, expecting to find an Italian steamer which would take them back to Europe. These people have been in the province some years, and are thoroughly acclimated. And still we are told that the present system of colonization is all right!

**N**OTICE TO CONTRACTORS

#### CANTAREIRA E EGOTOS

OF THE

CITY OF SÃO PAULO

The directors of the *Companhia Cantareira e Egotos* will receive proposals for the construction of the waterworks and a central power plant, and the laying of the pipes for the furnishing of fuel and material necessary for said works, and mark the term of thirty days from this date to the 30th of Sept. prox. for receiving the respective proposals of contractors.

The specifications, plans, profiles, maps, etc., which should be used as a basis for the proposals may be examined by contractors at the office of the Company, No. 37 Rua do Rio Vida.

Office of the *Companhia Cantareira e Egotos*, São Paulo, August 31, 1879.

ANTERO BLOEM,  
Accountant.

#### FARMER, LITTLE & Co.

DEALERS IN

ALL KINDS OF PRINTING MATERIALS,

PRESSES, &c. &c.

63 & 65 Beekman St. New York

Orders and correspondence solicited. 22-31

Steamer will arrive and clear at this port as follows:

Steamer Commander Arrive Depart

City of Rio de Janeiro Capt. Lewis Aug 26 Sept 5

City of Pará Capt. Carpenter Sept. 28 Oct. 5

City of Rio de Janeiro Capt. Lewis Oct. 28 Nov. 5

City of Pará Capt. Carpenter Nov. 28 Dec. 5

Fare between New York and Rio de Janeiro, 1st class \$175.

General and Passage office.

WILSON'S SONS & Co., Limited.

No. 2 Praça das Marinhais.

Orders for complete outfitts received. 22-31

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